

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 9, 13 to 15 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Platteter et al. (U.S. 5,629,775). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Platteter et al. (U.S. 5,629,775) as applied to claim 8 and further in view of Okano (U.S. 2001/0011219). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Platteter et al. (U.S. 5,629,775) in view of Goers et al. (U.S. 2002/0096942).

Claims 16 to 18 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 4 to 6, 8, 12, 14, 17 and 19 have been amended. Claims 1 to 3, 7, 9, 13, 16 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application based on the amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objections

Claims 16 to 18 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 4 to 6, 8, 12, 14, 17 and 19 have been amended. Claim 8 has been amended to recite the limitations of allowable dependent claim 16. Claims 4 to 6, 14, 17 and 19 have been amended to depend from claim 8.

Claims 1 to 3, 7, 9, 13, 16 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 8 and the claims that depend therefrom are now allowable and the withdrawal of the objection to claim 8 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

Claims 1 to 9, 13 to 15 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Platteter et al.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Platteter et al. as applied to claim 8 and further in view of Okano.

Platteter et al. discloses an electronic image processing apparatus having a plurality of resources wherein each of the resources includes an associated processor for storing data related to the operational timing of the associated resource. (See col. 2; lines 19 to 23). The SBC PWBA 22 includes memory 22A for storing data related to the operation and timing of the associated feeder or finisher and logic and circuitry 22B for interrogating each of the device PWBA's for the operational and timing data of the device PWBA. (See col. 4; lines 1 to 6).

Claim 8 has been amended to recite the limitations of allowable dependent claim 16. Claims 4 to 6, 14, 17 and 19 have been amended to depend from claim 8.

Claims 1 to 3, 7, 9, 13, 16 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Withdrawal of rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) of claim 8 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 12 was rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Platteter et al. in view of Goers et al.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite the limitations of allowable dependent claim 16.

Withdrawal of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claim 8 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,
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